

Message Text

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ACTION MBFR-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10

L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01

USIA-12 SAJ-01 IO-12 OIC-04 AEC-11 ACDA-19 OMB-01

H-02 NSC-10 SS-15 RSR-01 /155 W
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8745

INFO SECDEF/ WASHDC PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

S E C R E T VIENNA 3758

FROM US MBFR REP

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: MBFR: US OBJECTIONS TO NETHERLANDS OPENING STATEMENT

REF: STATE 84470

1. US REP PRESENTED DEPARTMENT OBJECTIONS TO PARA 2 OF DUTCH STATEMENT IN CONVERSATION WITH ACTING DUTCH REP DEVOS ON MAY 7, USING IN FULL ARGUMENTS CONTAINED IN PARA 1 OF REFTEL, AND EMPHASIZING THAT INFORMAL REMARKS BY KVITSINSKIY WERE ONE THING, BUT THAT NETHERLANDS RISKED ESCALATION AND CRYSTALLIZATION OF SOVIET POSITION BY MAKING EXPLICIT CONNECTION BETWEEN CSCE AND MBFR IN OPENING STATEMENT.

2. DEVOS SAID POSITION SET FORTH IN PARA 2 OF NETHERLANDS STATEMENT REPRESENTED A FORMAL COMMITMENT OF NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT WHICH HE FELT WAS UNLIKELY TO BE CHANGED. HE UNDERSTOOD US PREOCCUPATIONS ABOUT ESTABLISHING ANY KIND OF LINKAGE BETWEEN MBFR AND CSCE, WHICH WERE REINFORCED BY SOVIET REMARKS. HOWEVER, NETH-
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ERLANDS STATEMENT ON THIS POINT HAD BEEN CAREFULLY PHRASED WITH THESE RISKS IN MIND AND DELIBERATELY AVOIDED ESTABLISHING A FORMAL LINKAGE. US REP SUGGESTED THAT AT LEAST THE SENTENCE OF NETHERLANDS STATEMENT, " THUS THE SUCCESS OF THE EXPLORATORY TALKS ON MBFR WILL ALSO PROVIDE VALUABLE INDICATION AS TO WHETHER THE CLIMATE IS INDEED PROPITIOUS FOR A CSCE," BE DELETED. DEVOS REPLIED THAT NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN THE LINE SET FORTH IN THIS SENTENCE PUBLICLY AND COULD SCARCELY DO LESS IN AN IMPORTANT MBFR STATEMENT INTENDED FOR PUBLICATION. NETHERLANDS LANGUAGE AVOIDED ESTABLISHING ANY SPECIFIC LINKAGE. US REP SAID THAT NONETHELESS, FORMULATION USED CREATED BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGE TO THE SOVIETS TO RESPOND IN A FORMAL WAY. NETHERLANDS REP SAID HE WOULD CAREFULLY REPORT US OBJECTIONS TO HIS GOVERNMENT. HE BELIEVED SOVIETS HAD HAD LINKAGE IN MIND FROM THE BEGINNING BUT IT WAS PROBABLY NOT IN THEIR INTERESTS TO PUT IT PUBLICLY BECAUSE THIS WOULD WORK AGAINST THEIR KNOWN DESIRE TO KEEP THE TWO NEGOTIATIONS SEPARATE.

3. COMMENT: NETHERLANDS REP'S VIEWS WILL PROBABLY BE REINFORCED BY THE STATEMENT OF SOVIET REP KHLESTOV TO THE UK REP THOMSON ON MAY 5, CONTAINED IN REPORT OF MAY 7 AD HOC GROUP MEETING, THAT THE SOVIETS WERE NOT MAKING ANY LINK BETWEEN DATES OF CSCE AND MBFR AND THAT KVITSINSKIY'S REMARKS TO THIS EFFECT HAD BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD. MOWINCKEL

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